

**EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS  
INITIATIVE**

[www.nod.org/emergency](http://www.nod.org/emergency)

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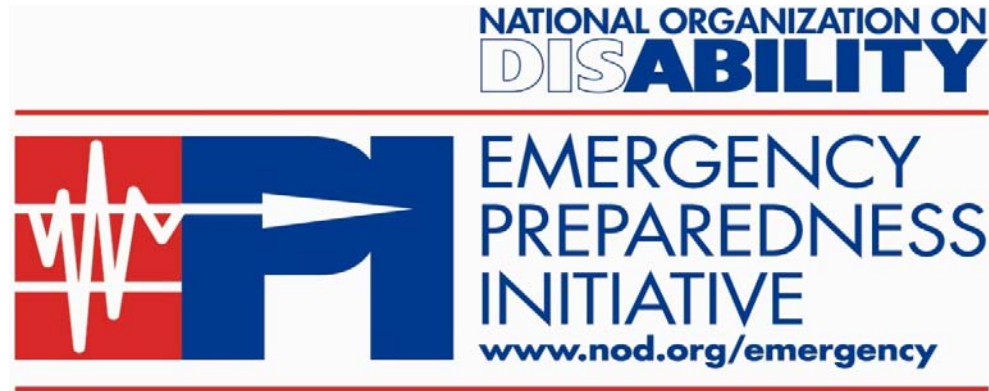
**Special Needs / Disabilities Panel /  
Best Practices for Emergency Managers  
Virginia Emergency Management Conference  
13 March, 2008**

**Betsy Berry, Program Officer**



**VAEmergency.com**

**Virginia Department of Emergency Management**



- People with disabilities are included in all phases of emergency planning and response at all levels
- Contribution to the nation's overall preparedness by enlisting the special qualities of resourcefulness, determination, and ingenuity of people with disabilities
- That the special needs of people with disabilities are addressed prior to an emergency to minimize the adverse impact

# Special Needs Populations

- Individuals in the community with physical, mental, or medical care needs who may require assistance before, during, and/or after a disaster or emergency after exhausting their usual resources and support network.



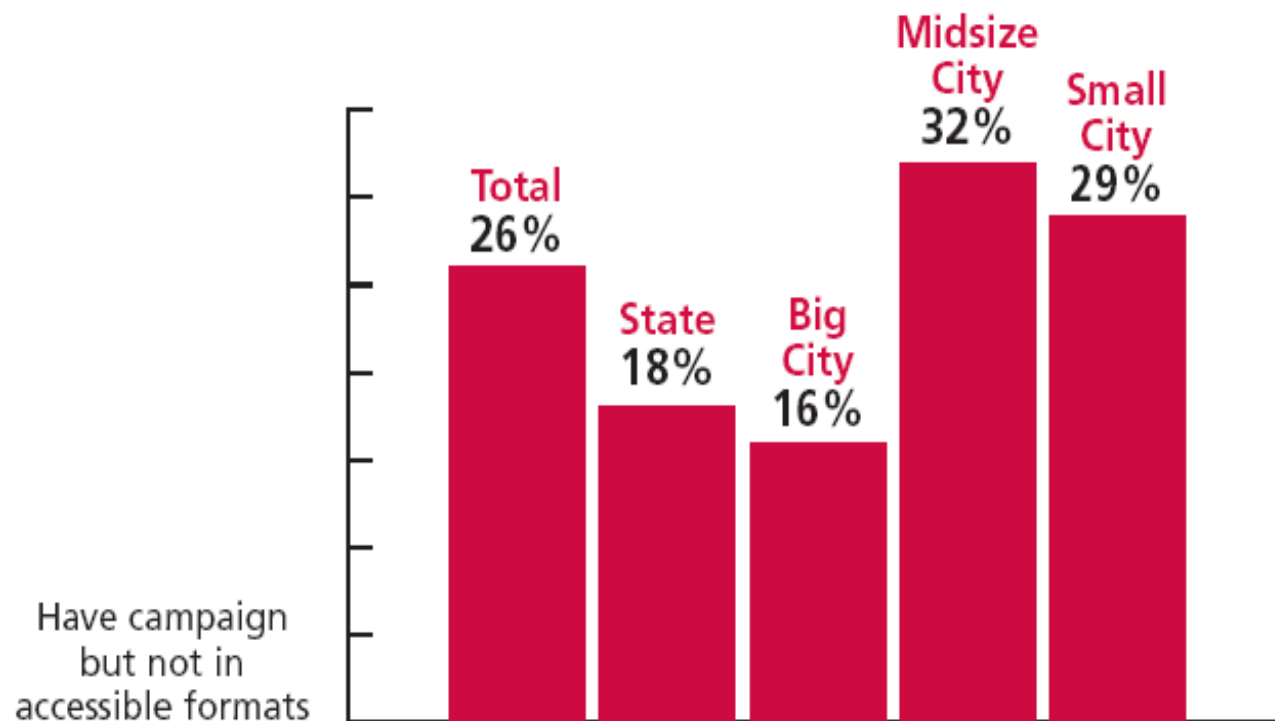
**Does your agency have an effective emergency preparedness plan for “special needs” issues?**



**DOES THE TARGET POPULATION KNOW WHAT  
THIS PLAN IS?**

# 2004 Survey of Emergency Managers

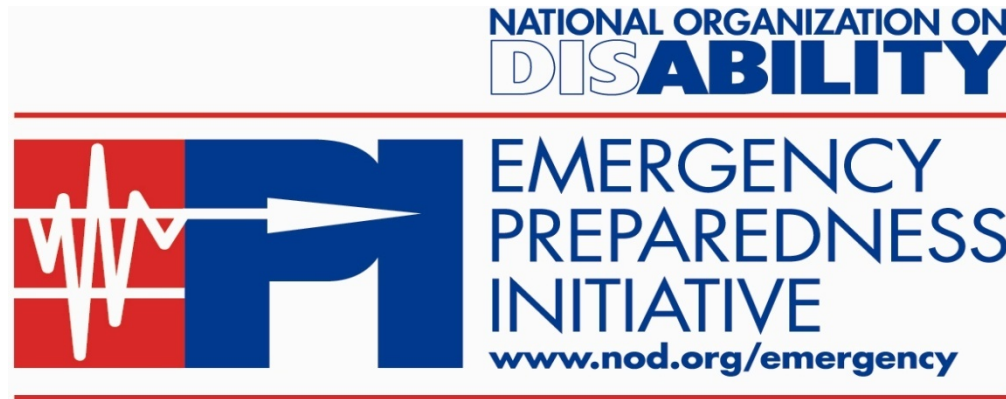
**Have Public Awareness Campaign Directed at People with Disabilities,  
but not in Accessible Formats**





**ARE YOU SURE??**





## **2004 Survey of Emergency Managers**

- **76% did not have a paid expert to deal with emergency preparedness for people with disabilities**
- **39% had not purchased specialized equipment**
- **36% said no special training had been offered**
- **73% said no funding had been received to address emergency planning for people with disabilities**



# Special Needs Populations

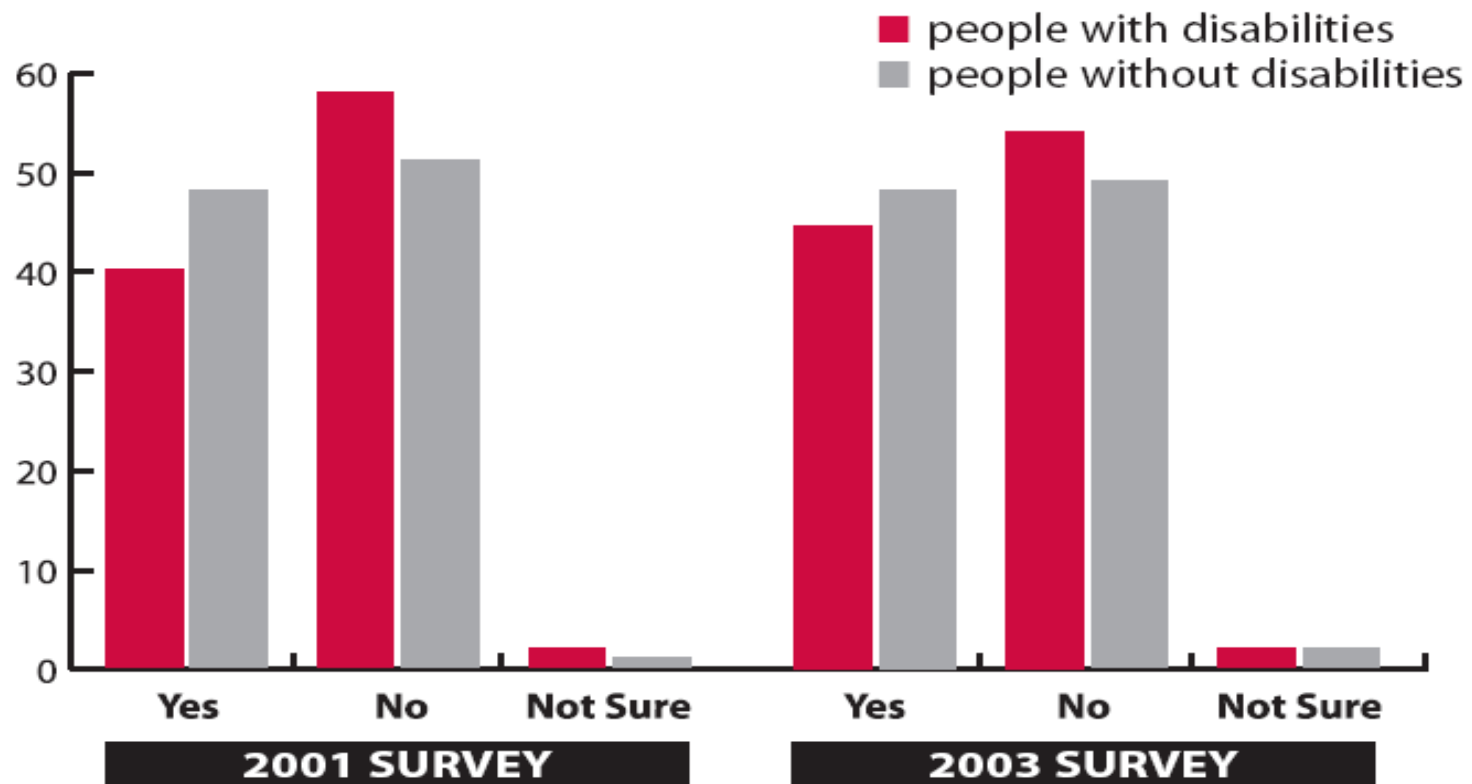
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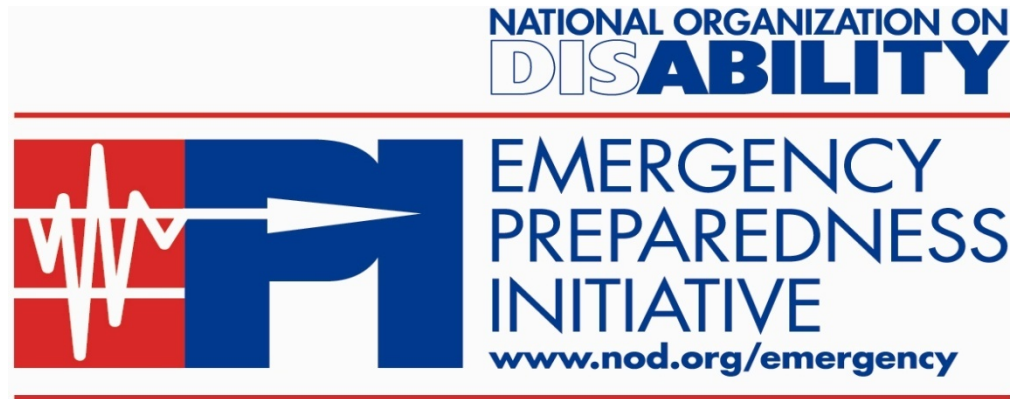
- People with:
  - Sensory disabilities
  - Mobility disabilities
  - Mental disabilities
  - Other medical conditions

# Special Needs Populations

- Senior citizens, who may have:
    - Sensory impairment
    - Mobility impairment
    - Hyper/hypothermia vulnerability
    - Memory disorders
    - Transfer trauma
    - Language and cultural barriers
- Note: This list also applies to non-seniors.

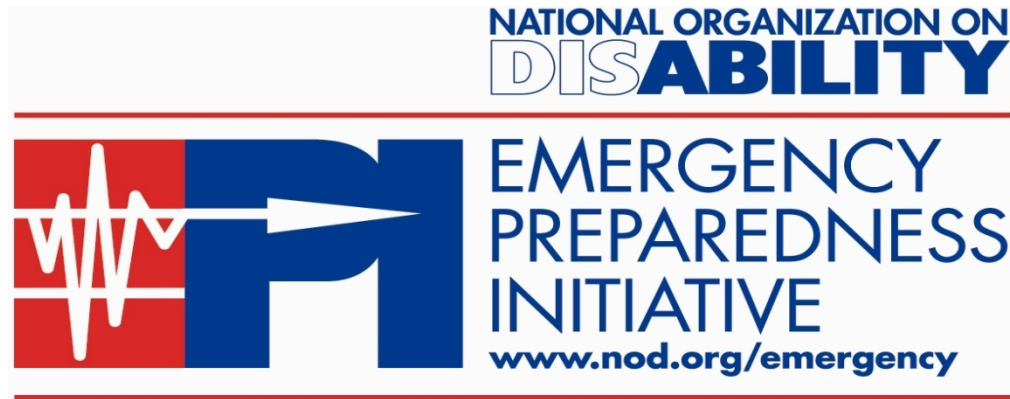
## Knows whom to contact about home or work emergency plans





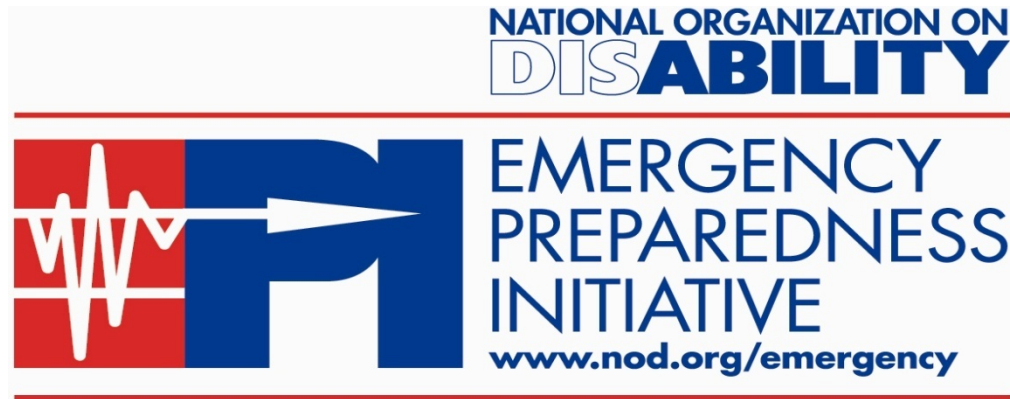
## **Federal Legislation**

- **HR 5441**
  - **Disability Coordinator at FEMA**
  - **Guidelines for accessibility, communications and programs in disasters**
  - **Post-disaster case management services**
  - **The inclusion of Durable Medical Equipment (DME) as an “essential need” during a disaster**



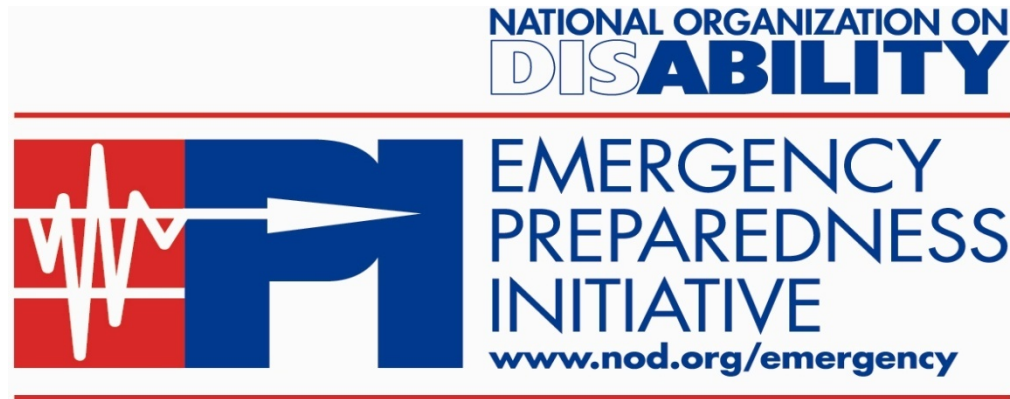
# Key Principles of Disability Law

- Self Determination
- No “One Size Fits All”
- Equal Opportunity



# Key Principles of Disability Law

- Inclusion
- Integration
- Physical Access
- Equal Access



# Key Principles of Disability Law

- Effective Communication
- Program Modifications
- No Charge

# Emergency Preparedness

- Preparedness means knowing what you'll do if essential services break down.
- It involves:
  - Developing a plan for contingencies.
  - Communicating the plan.
  - Training people about the plan.
  - Practicing the plan.
  - Maintaining the plan.



# Four Planning Premises

- Know your community.
- Know your emergency management structure.
- Take individual responsibility.
- Remember . . . It doesn't have to be a large disaster to cause a lot of trouble.



**NO PLAN**

NO PLAN

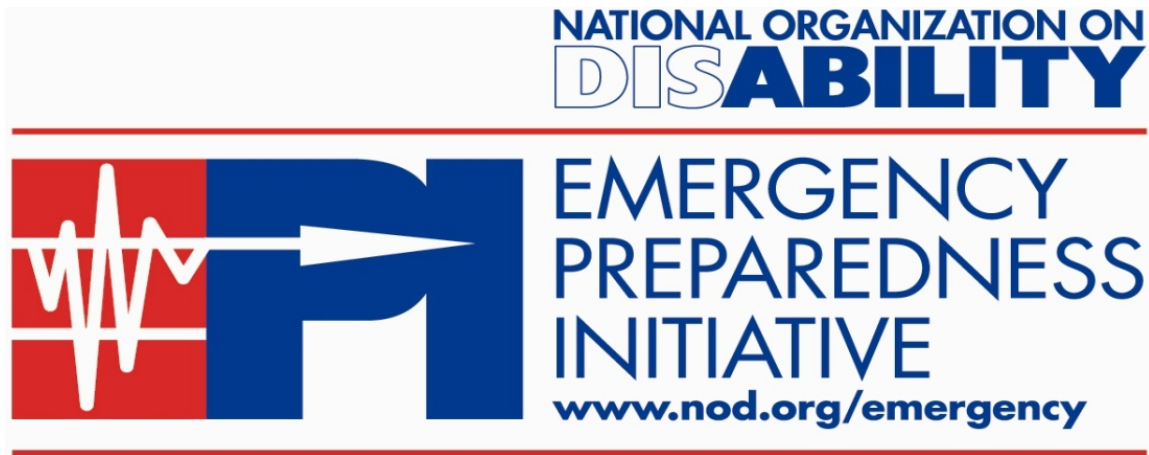


**NO PLAN**

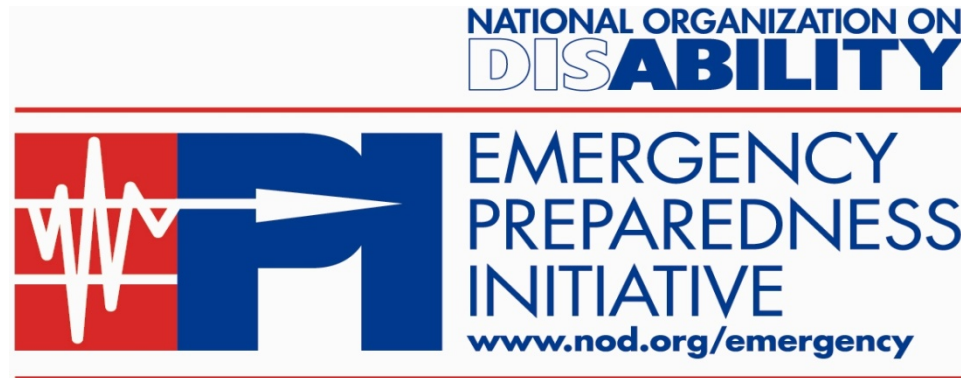




**NO PLAN**



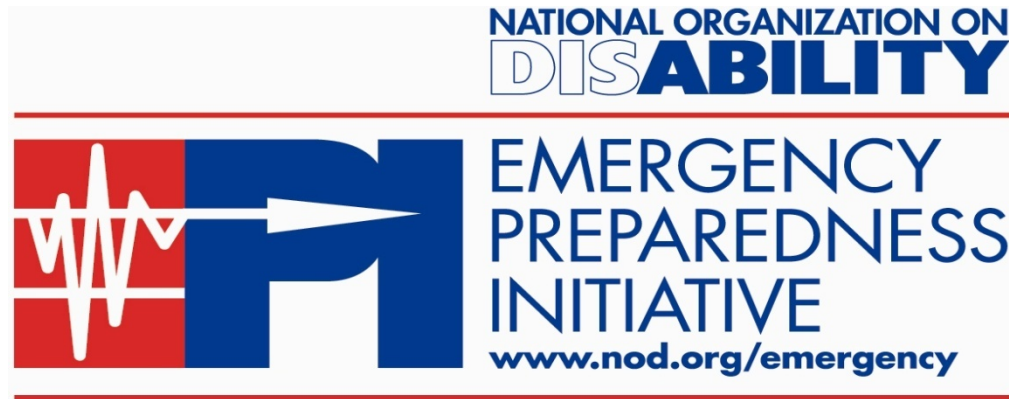
# **Special Needs Assessment 4 Katrina Evacuees (SNAKE) Report**



## **SNAKE REPORT FINDINGS**

**85.7%** of community-based providers of services for seniors and people with disabilities do not know how to access the emergency management system

**54%** of the shelter operators did not have any working agreements with disability and aging specific organizations

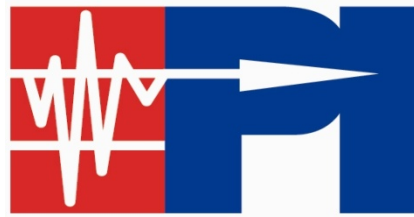


## **SNAKE REPORT FINDINGS**

- ★ **Emergency professionals and response organizations must seek out and utilize the expertise of disability and aging networks to reduce or eliminate barriers to effective service delivery.**
- ★ **People with disabilities must become familiar with emergency protocol in order to work effectively with emergency responders before, during and after an emergency.**

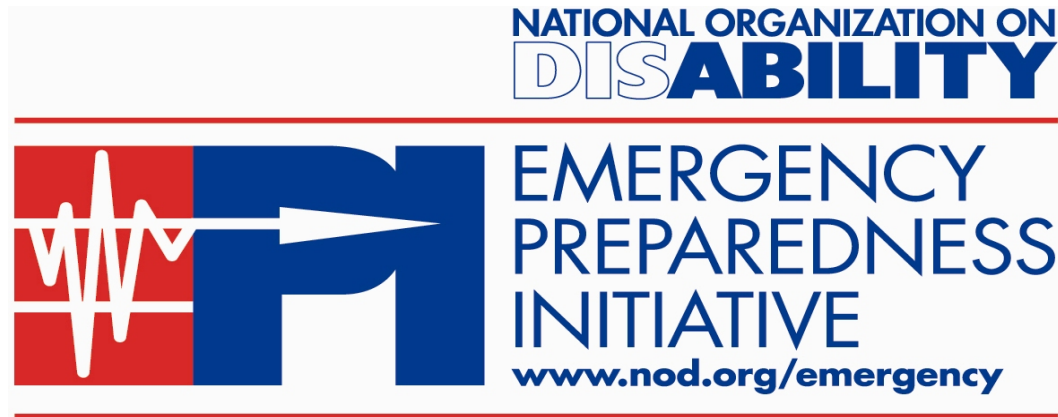


NATIONAL ORGANIZATION ON  
**DISABILITY**



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## **SNAKE REPORT FINDINGS**

**Most underserved group: persons were Deaf or hard of hearing**

- ★ **Less than 30% of shelters had access to American Sign Language interpreters**
- ★ **80% did not have TTY's**
- ★ **60% did not have TVs with open caption capability**
- ★ **Only 56% of shelters had areas where oral announcements were posted.**



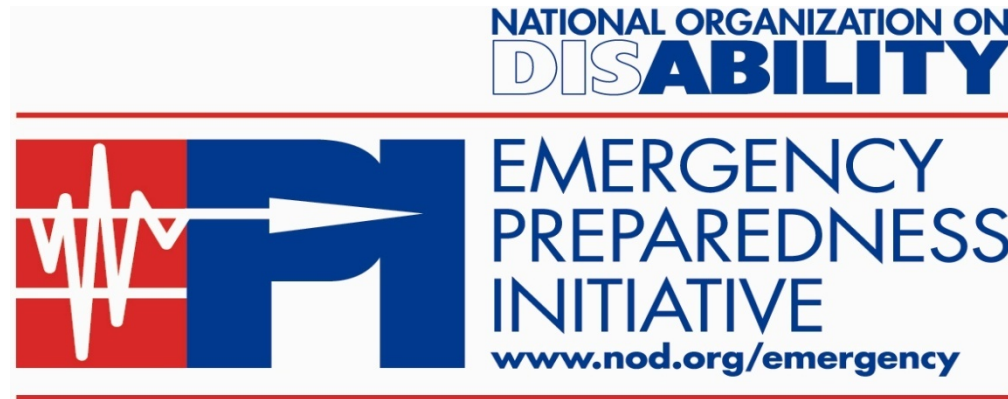
If anyone here is

DEAF and needs

assistance, Please Contact

Fr. Jocy Pilola @

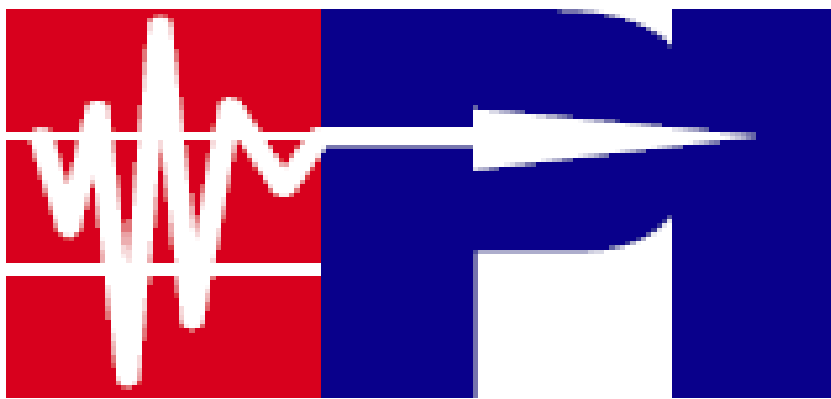
(985) 872-2946



## **Two useful web tools from EPI:**

❖ [\*\*www.nod.org/emergency\*\*](http://www.nod.org/emergency)

- **12 Months of Preparedness Series**
- **Interactive Map of Disability and Emergency Preparedness Resources**



# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVE

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**Thank you for your dedication to ensuring that ALL people are prepared for emergencies and disasters.**

**Information included in this presentation is available at: [www.nod.org/emergency](http://www.nod.org/emergency)**



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**Virginia Department of Emergency Management**